

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin in view of Quinn.

The present invention relates to automatically clearing stored notification messages from a terminal memory so as to avoid unnecessary filing the terminal memory and thereby possibly blocking receiving further messages.

As the Examiner admits, Amin does not have the steps of contacting from the terminal a specific address and erasing the memory in response to a specific procedure. It is respectfully submitted that Quinn does not teach clearing the notification messages from a memory of the terminal; to the contrary, the cited portions of Quinn disclose clearing the messages from the voice mail mailbox 46 at the server. Quinn discloses that the terminal has a light indicator 50 either on or off depending on whether there are new messages on the server.

In connection with Fig. 4, another example is provided in which the e-mail itself is sent by forwarding software 28 to the local notification system 10 that includes a screen 130 for displaying it to the user. In effect, this corresponds to transmitting e-mail without any prior notification at all.

As a whole, Quinn does not provide any motivation whatsoever to supplement Amin with deleting notification messages from the memory of the terminal. In the embodiment referred by the Examiner, not a word is seen to discuss or teach deleting a notification message from the memory of the terminal. Even if trying to reconstruct the operation when using Quinn's teaching, there would be an analog or digitally maintained state (which

with hindsight could be expanded to memory), but which only is swapped between on and off. The presently claimed "erasing a notification message from the memory" in claims 1 and 16 frees memory which that changing of state does not produce. This facilitates receiving further messages unlike the changing of a state which may or may not be disclosed by Quinn.

Thus even if Amin and Quinn are combined, the result is not the present invention. Hence the rejection of claims 1-8 and 13-16 under 35 USC 103 on this combination of references should be withdrawn.

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and Quinn in view of Kaisto.

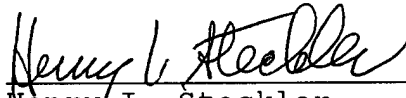
Similarly, Kaisto does not show the above discussed features. Thus combining it with Amin and Quinn does not result in the present invention. Hence the rejection of claims 9-12 should be withdrawn.

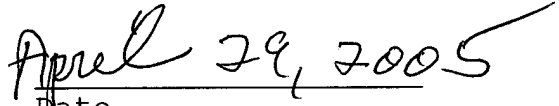
New claims 30-35 are directed to a computer program and are supported by page 11, lines 31-34. Since they have limitations corresponding to the allowable method and apparatus claims, they are allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$870.00 is enclosed for a one month extension of time and additional claim fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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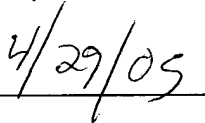

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